Concerns Despite Lingering NYC Residents

Despite lingering NYC residents, surveys over the years and reports of ownership, reports of employment and greater financial assets, included problems. They also reported similar levels of children’s health to what it was in prior years and their children’s health is similar to the previous five years. They said good health as anytime in the past, and adults reported being in as good a place to live, compared to 61 percent in 1997 and 70 percent in 1999. Adults reporting being in as good health as anytime in the previous five years. They said their children’s health is similar to what it was in prior years and reported similar levels of child behavior and mental health problems. They also reported greater financial assets, including liquid assets and home ownership. Reports of employment were the same as in previous surveys and reports of fiscal health report.

When Hiroshima was destroyed at the end of World War II, one little girl wanted to do something to help repair the damage. Though she was dying of leukemia, she decided to fold one thousand paper cranes, hoping it might bring recovery, healing and peace. More than fifty years later, her gesture has become an international symbol of peace. It has also inspired children and women at the Northern Manhattan HIV Women’s and Children’s Project to spend the month of September making paper cranes for AIDS victims. It is their attempt to help repair the damage done to the city by the destruction of the World Trade Center.

The group’s efforts are part of a month-long emphasis on personal, community and citywide wellness sponsored by a unique alliance known as “NYC Recovers.” Comprised of over forty partnership groups—including a number of Columbia’s schools and centers—“NYC Recovers” was founded a week after the twin towers fell by Mindy Fullilove, professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at the Mailman School of Public Health.

“Welcome to Columbia”

President Lee C. Bollinger shakes hands with first-year student Lexie Costic while her father, Alan, looks on. Bollinger welcomed new students and their families in Levis Gymnasium on “Move-in Day,” which kicked off a week of orientation activities that included trips to the Museum of Natural History and Greenwich Village. (See Page 6 for more photos)

Nobel Laureate Varmus Named Columbia Trustee

Harold E. Varmus, a Nobel laureate and former director of the National Institutes of Health, has been elected a Trustee of Columbia University.

Varmus, P’66, S’66, has served as the president and chief executive officer of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City since January 2000.

Varmus shared the 1989 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with J. Michael Bishop for their work at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) on the genetic basis of cancer. Varmus, who spent 23 years as a faculty member at UCSF, Bishop and their co-workers demonstrated the cellular origins of the oncogene of a chicken retrovirus. This discovery led to the isolation of many cellular genes that normally control growth and development and are frequently mutated in human cancer.

Varmus is also widely recognized for his studies of the replication cycles of retroviruses and hepatitis B viruses, the functions of genes implicated in cancer and the development of mouse models for human cancer.

In 1993, Varmus was named by President Bill Clinton to serve as the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a position he held until the end of 1999. At the NIH, Varmus initiated many changes in the conduct of intramural and extramural research programs, recruited new leaders for most of the strategic positions at the NIH, planned three major buildings on the NIH campus and helped to increase the NIH budget from under $11 billion to nearly $18 billion.

Varmus has been an advisor to the federal government, pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms and many academic institutions. Recently, he served on the World Health Organization’s Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, advisory committees on electronic publishing and a National Research Council panel on genetically modified organisms.

Varmus has co-authored, with Robert Weinberg, Genes and the Biology of Cancer (Scientific American Library, 1992), an introduction to the genetic basis of cancer for a general audience. He has also co-edited five books and has authored or co-authored nearly 350 journal articles.

Varmus has been a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences since 1984 and of the Institute of Medicine since 1991.

Varmus obtained his bachelor’s degree in English from Amherst College, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1961, and a master’s degree in English literature from Harvard in 1962. In addition to graduating from Columbia’s College of Physicians & Surgeons in 1966, Varmus served on the medical house staff at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital from 1966 to 1968. Varmus was awarded an honorary doctorate from Columbia in 1990.

Group Focuses On Wellness As September 11 Approaches

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4 Columbia hosts World Trade Center memorial services throughout several campuses.

12 Columbia Video Network named “Best of the Web” by Forbes magazine.